

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12, 68, 101-103 and 107-109 have been canceled, without prejudice, and rewritten as claims 110-117, respectively, to correct an inadvertent typographical error in the structure recited therein. Claims 8-11, 32, 33, 35, 40, 42, 63-67, 72, 79-81, 88-90, 93, 104-106 and 110-117 are pending in the present application. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, for example, in structures 45 and 46 presented in Figure 7. No new matter has been added.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for providing an initialed copy of the PTO Form 1449 with the present Office Action.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 8-12, 32, 33, 35, 40, 42, 63-68, 72, 79-81, 88-90, 93, 101-109 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for the recitation of the phrase "group that enhances the pharmacokinetic properties of oligonucleotides or a group that enhances the pharmacokinetic properties of oligonucleotides." Applicants traverse this rejection. However, solely for purposes of advancing prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims, thereby rendering moot the rejection. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

DOCKET NO.: ISIS-4803
Application No.: 09/973,981
Office Action Dated: May 29, 2003

PATENT

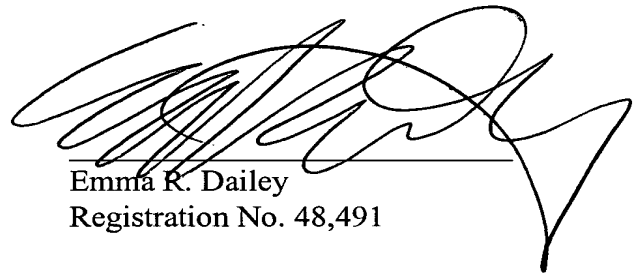
Non-Statutory Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 101-103, 107-108 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,434 to Guzaev et al. ("434 Patent"). Applicants traverse this rejection. However, solely for purposes of advancing prosecution, Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer.

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing constitutes a bona fide attempt to advance prosecution. The claims are in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request an early Notice of Allowance. Should there be any questions, the undersigned invites the Examiner to call her to discuss.

Date: August 27, 2003

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